SUPPLEMENT
TO THE
BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

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British Medical Association.

CURRENT NOTES.

Income Tax: Allowance for Motor-Car Depreciation.

SECTION 16 of the Finance Act of 1925 provides for an allowance being made in respect of the depreciation of motor cars, and this applies to all assessments as from April 5th, 1925. A case has recently been brought to the notice of the Association in which the local surveyor of taxes has suggested that the allowance should be 5 per cent. Although no definite percentage has been laid down, the usual rate has been stated in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL to be 15 to 20 per cent. of the "written-down" value of the motor car, and in any case where members have difficulty in securing an allowance of 15 or 20 per cent. they should report the facts to the Medical Secretary of the Association, who will be pleased to do all he can to assist them.

Sir Charles Hastings Clinical Prize Competition, 1927.

"THE Sir Charles Hastings Clinical Prize" of fifty guineas, the first award of which was made at Nottingham, is again open for competition. The Prize has been established by the Association for the purpose of stimulating systematic observation, research, and record in general practice. The Association believes that systematic observation by general practitioners, along selected lines of clinical study, may result in the production of practical contributions of great value by those who are in a favourable position for following disease through its various stages. The following are the conditions governing the next award of the Prize:

The 1927 Competition for the Prize.

The prize is again offered for competition in 1927. The conditions governing its award are:

1. This prize is established by the Council of the British Medical Association for the promotion of systematic observation, research, and record in general practice; it includes a money award of the value of fifty guineas.
2. Any member of the Association who is engaged in general practice is eligible to compete for the prize.
3. The work submitted must include personal observations and experience of the candidate collected in general practice, and a high order of excellence will be expected. If no essay entered is of sufficient merit no award will be made.
4. Essays, or whatever form the candidate desires his work to take, must be sent to the Medical Secretary, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1, not later than December 31st, 1926, and the prize will be awarded at the Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held at Edinburgh.
5. If any question arises in reference to the eligibility of the candidate or the admissibility of his essay, the decision of the Council on any such point shall be final.
6. Each essay must be distinguished by a motto, and must be accompanied by an envelope marked with the same motto, and including the candidate's name and address.
7. The candidate who gains the award shall, if the Council so desires, publish his paper in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL or deliver a lecture on the subject thereof at a meeting of the Association.
8. Inquiries relative to the prize should be addressed to the Medical Secretary, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

Association Notices.

BRANCH AND DIVISION MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH: WEST BROMWICH DIVISION.—The fourth regular meeting for 1926 of the West Bromwich Division will be held at the District Hospital, West Bromwich, on Tuesday, October 5th, at 3 p.m. After transaction of Divisional business Dr. Clyde McKenzie of Smethwick will read a paper on ultra-violet rays and give a demonstration.

BORDER COUNTIES BRANCH: DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY DIVISION.—The postponed meeting of the Division will be held in the County Buildings, Dumfries (the use of which has been kindly granted by the Dumfriesshire County Council), on Thursday, October 7th, at 3 p.m., when Dr. J. R. Drever, the Scottish Medical Secretary and a member of the Hospital Services (Scotland) Committee, will deliver an address on a hospital policy for Scotland. In view of the importance of the subject it is hoped that all interested will attend and take part in any subsequent discussion. Dr. Murray B. Steuart, Kirkcudbright, will preside. Tea will be provided.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE (WESTERN) BRANCH.—A meeting of the Cape of Good Hope (Western) Branch will be held on Friday, October 29th, at 8 p.m. Papers—Dr. A. Simpson Wells: Miscarriage; Professor E. C. Crichton: Lingering Labour.

KENT BRANCH.—The quarterly meeting of the Kent Branch will be held at the Lyndhurst Hotel, Folkestone, on Friday, September 24th, at 3 p.m. Dr. G. T. Birdwood of Walmer, formerly professor of midwifery at King George's Medical College, Lucknow, will read a paper on ante-natal midwifery in general practice.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: SOUTH-WEST ESSEX DIVISION.—A meeting of the South-West Essex Division will be held at Whipps Cross Hospital on Tuesday, September 21st, at 3.30 p.m. The matters for consideration include adoption of new Model Rules of Organization, appointment of B.M.A. Charities secretary, and election of Executive Committee member. The business will be followed by a demonstration of cases of interest by Dr. J. C. Muir, superintendent of the hospital. Tea at 3.15. Visitors will be welcomed at the clinical demonstration.

The following programme has been arranged for the remainder of the 1926-27 session. Meetings will take place at 3.30 p.m. unless otherwise notified. Visitors are cordially invited to attend the scientific meetings.

Oct.	5th.	Woodford Jubilee Hospital, Woodford Green. Dr. F. W. Price: Recent Advances in the Diagnosis, Prognosis, and Treatment of Heart Disease.
Oct.	19th.	Walthamstow Hospital. Mr. Whitchurch Howell: Sciatica So-called.
Nov.	2nd.	Livingstone College, Knott's Green, Leyton. Dr. Langdon Brown: Organotherapy in General Practice.
Dec.	7th.	Wesleyan Schoolrooms, High Road, Leyton. Dr. A. E. Gow: Infections of the Urinary Tract.
Mar.	1st.	Whipps Cross Hospital, Leytonstone. Clinical Demonstration by Dr. J. C. Muir, medical superintendent.
Mar.	29th.	Walthamstow Hospital. Dr. G. F. Still: Vomiting in Childhood.
May	3rd.	Claybury Mental Hospital, Woodford Bridge. Demonstration of Cases by Dr. G. F. Barham, medical superintendent.
May	31st.	Wesleyan Schoolrooms, High Road, Leyton. Annual General Meeting. Mr. A. J. Couzens: Personal Experience of Abdominal Disease, mainly from the Diagnostic Standpoint.

NORTHERN COUNTIES OF SCOTLAND BRANCH: BANFF, MORAY, AND NAIRN DIVISION.—The autumn meeting of the Division will be held in the Gordon Richmond Hotel, Spey Bay, on Saturday, September 25th, at noon. After the meeting, about 1 o'clock,

Naval and Military Appointments.

ROYAL NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICE.

Surgeon Rear-Admiral C. M Beadnell, C.B., K.H.P., has been placed on the retired list at his own request.

Surgeon Captain W. L. Martin, O.B.E., to rank of Surgeon Rear-Admiral.

Surgeon Commander M. J. Laffan: appointment to the *Malaya* cancelled.

Surgeon Commander M. C. Mason placed on retired list at own request.

Surgeon Commanders F. G. H. R. Black to the *Victory* for R.N. Hospital, Haslar, temporary, supernumerary; G. G. Vickery to the *Canterbury* on transfer; J. A. Maxwell to the *Pembroke* for R.N. Hospital, Great Yarmouth, temporary; J. Bourdas to the *Furious* on recommissioning; A. G. V. French to the *Malaya* and to the *Malaya* on recommissioning; H. M. Whelan to the *Ganges* for R.N. Sick Quarters, Shotley.

Surgeon Commander H. H. Babington, loan to R.A.N. cancelled.

Surgeon Lieutenant Commander H. Wilks to be Surgeon Commander.

Surgeon Lieutenant Commanders F. G. Hunt to the *Dartmouth*, on commissioning for voyage out and home; H. Hurst to the *Carysfort*, and to the *Carysfort* for voyage out and home; and J. R. Brennan to the *Castor*, and to the *Castor* on commissioning for voyage out and home.

Surgeon Lieutenants R. W. Higgins to the *Pembroke* for R.M. Infirmary, Chatham; S. Morrow to the *Furious* on recommissioning.

Surgeon Lieutenants E. T. S. Rudd to the *Royal Sovereign*, and H. Gow to the *Ajax*.

Mr. J. K. G. Way has entered as Surgeon Lieutenant for short service and is appointed to R.N. Hospital, Haslar, for course.

ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE.

Surgeon Lieutenants J. M. MacWright to the *Victory* for R.N. Hospital, Haslar, for fourteen days' training; W. F. Lascelles (probationary) to the *Victory* for R.N. Hospital, Haslar, for twenty-eight days' training; J. L. Cox to the *Erebus* for fourteen days' training; and W. Caithness to the *Victory* for R.N. Barracks for fourteen days' training.

Surgeon Sublieutenant E. I. Puddy promoted to Surgeon Lieutenant and attached to the London Division.

Probationary Surgeon Lieutenants J. B. Oldham, R. P. B. Roberts, and H. Winstanley, and Probationary Surgeon Sublieutenant J. B. Hutchison to be Surgeon Lieutenants.

Probationary Surgeon Sublieutenant D. S. Buchanan to the *Victory* for R.N. Hospital, Haslar, for twenty-eight days' training.

Dr. R. S. Allison entered as Probationary Surgeon Lieutenant and attached to the Ulster Division.

VACANCIES.

BRIGHTON: ROYAL SUSSEX COUNTY HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon (male). Salary £150 per annum.

CARDIFF: PRINCE OF WALES' HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon for Cripples' Hospital. Salary £100 per annum.

CARDIFF ROYAL INFIRMARY.—Ophthalmic House-Surgeon. Salary £50 per annum.

CHELSEA HEALTH SOCIETY, 1, Manor Street, S.W.3.—Medical Officer (woman) for Infant Welfare Centre.

EDINBURGH: ROYAL MENTAL HOSPITAL, Morningside.—Assistant Medical Officer (male). Salary £350.

GLASGOW EYE INFIRMARY.—Resident Assistant House-Surgeon (male). Salary at the rate of £75 per annum.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.—(1) House-Surgeon. (2) House-Physician and Assistant Casualty Officer. The appointments are for six months. Salary £50.

LANCASHIRE ASYLUMS BOARD.—Pathologist. Salary £1,000 per annum.

LEICESTER ISOLATION HOSPITAL AND SANATORIUM.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary £350 per annum.

LINCOLN COUNTY HOSPITAL.—Junior House-Surgeon (male). Salary at the rate of £150 per annum, rising to £200.

LONDON HOMOEOPATHIC HOSPITAL, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary at the rate of £100 per annum.

MANCHESTER: ANCOATS HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon. Salary at the rate of £100 per annum.

MANCHESTER BABIES HOSPITAL, Burnage Lane, Levenshulme.—(1) Resident Medical Officer. (2) Resident Clinical Assistant Salaries at the rate of £125 and £50 per annum respectively.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE HEART, Westmoreland Street, W.1.—Resident Medical Officer (male). Salary at the rate of £150 a year.

NOTTINGHAM: GENERAL HOSPITAL.—Resident Casualty Officer (male). Salary at the rate of £200.

OSWESTRY: SHROPSHIRE ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL.—Two House-Surgeons. Salary £150 per annum.

OXFORD: RADCLIFFE INFIRMARY AND COUNTY HOSPITAL.—Resident Medical Officer to the Osler Pavilion for the Treatment of Tuberculosis Salary at the rate of £120 per annum.

PRINCE OF WALES'S GENERAL HOSPITAL, Tottenham, N.15.—(1) House-Surgeon. (2) Special House-Surgeon. (3) House-Physician. (4) Junior House-Surgeon. (5) Junior House-Physician. Salary for (1), (2), and (3) £120 per annum each, for (4) and (5) £90 per annum each

ROCHDALE INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY.—Junior House-Surgeon (male). Salary £200 per annum.

ROYAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL, City Road, E.C.1.—(1) Assistant Surgeon. (2) Two Refraction Assistants; salary at the rate of £100 per annum.

ST. HELENS COUNTY BOROUGH.—Assistant Medical Officer of Health (male). Salary at the rate of £650 per annum, rising to £750.

SALFORD: LADYWELL SANATORIUM, Pendleton.—Bacteriologist. Salary £600 per annum.

SALFORD ROYAL HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon (male). Salary at the rate of £125 per annum.

SAMARITAN FREE HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, Marylebone Road, N.W.1.—House-Surgeon. Salary at the rate of £100 per annum.

SEAMEN'S HOSPITAL SOCIETY, Greenwich.—House-Physician and House-Surgeon at Dreadnought Hospital. Salary £110 per annum with proportion of fees.

SWANSEA COUNTY BOROUGH.—Assistant Medical Officer (lady). Salary £600 per annum.

WEST END HOSPITAL FOR NERVOUS DISEASES, Gloucester Gate, Regent's Park, N.W.1.—Junior House-Physician (male). Salary £100.

WEST NORFOLK AND KING'S LYNN HOSPITAL.—Resident Surgical Officer. Salary £400 per annum.

WESTERN OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL, Marylebone Road, N.W.1.—(1) Senior and (2) Junior non-resident House-Surgeons. Salaries at the rate of £150 and £100 per annum respectively. (3) Honorary Assistant Surgeon. Honorarium 100 guineas per annum.

MEDICAL REFEREE UNDER THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT for the district of Clerkenwell County Court (Circuit No. 41). Applications to the Private Secretary, Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.1, by September 30th, 1926.

This list of vacancies is compiled from our advertisement columns, where full particulars will be found. To ensure notice in this column advertisements must be received not later than the first post on Tuesday morning.

British Medical Association.

OFFICES, BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, W.C.1.

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SCOTTISH MEDICAL SECRETARY: 6, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh. (Telegrams: Associate, Edinburgh. Tel.: 4361 Central.)

IRISH MEDICAL SECRETARY: 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin. (Telegrams: Bacillus, Dublin. Tel.: 4737 Dublin.)

Diary of the Association.

SEPTEMBER.

14 Tues. London: Ethical Committee, 2.15 p.m.
16 Thurs. London: Insurance Acts Committee, 12 noon.
17 Fri. London: Public Health Committee, 2.30 p.m.
21 Tues. London: Organization Committee.
22 Wed. London: Medico-Political Committee, 2.30 p.m.
23 Thurs. London: Journal Committee, 2.30 p.m.
28 Tues. London: Naval and Military Committee, 2.30 p.m.
29 Wed. London: Finance Committee, 2.30 p.m.
30 Thurs. Edinburgh: Scottish Committee.

OCTOBER.

6 Wed. Reigate Division: Annual Dinner, White Hart Hotel, Reigate. Mr. Percy Sargent on the Management of Patients with Brain Tumours, 7 p.m.
7 Thurs. Dumfries and Galloway Division: County Buildings, Dumfries. Address by Dr. J. R. Drever, Scottish Medical Secretary, on A Hospital Policy for Scotland, 3 p.m. Tea will be provided.
13 Wed. London: **Council**, 10 a.m.
21 Thurs. London: Conference of Representatives of Local Medical and Panel Committees at B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, 10 a.m.

NOVEMBER.

10 Wed. Reigate Division: Clinical Meeting, East Surrey Hospital, 4.30 p.m.

DECEMBER.

14 Tues. Reigate Division: East Surrey Hospital. Dr. H. W. Barber on the Treatment of Some Common Diseases of the Skin, 8.45 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS.

RICHARDSON, R. P., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Certifying Factory Surgeon for the Bruton District, co. Somerset.

RUSSELL, G. B., M.B., B.Ch., Medical Referee under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925, for the districts of Bishop's Waltham, Petersfield, Portsmouth, and Newport and Ryde County Courts, vice F. J. Wadham, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., resigned.

TIBBLES, Sidney, L.R.C.P. and S., L.R.F.P.S., Honorary Oculist to the London Orchestral Association, the Musicians' Union, also to the Sisters of the Church, and the Orphanage, Kilburn.

NEW SUSSEX HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN, Brighton.—*Temporary Honorary Assistant Anaesthetist:* Miss Bessie E. Cook, M.B., Ch.B.Lond. *House-Surgeon* (for six months): Miss V. Winifred Symonds, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL.—*House-Physicians:* G. M. Daniel, M.B., B.S.Lond., P. E. G. Cutting, M.B., B.S.Lond. *House-Surgeons:* J. T. Sorley, M.B., Ch.B.Aberd., G. H. Livingstone, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

CERTIFYING FACTORY SURGEONS.—R. P. Gammie, M.B., Ch.B.Aberd., for the Bishop's Stortford District, Herts; J. P. Murphy, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (N.U.I.), for the Pontebury District, Salop; F. A. Juckes, M.B., C.M.Ed., for the Horsham District, Sussex; and Miss Mary A. E. Somers, L.M.S.S.A.Lond., for the Weston-super-Mare District, Somerset; F. C. Alton, O.B.E., M.B., B.S.Lond., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., for the Hollingbourne District, Kent; R. J. E. Christie, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.Belf., for the Earsdon District, Northumberland; N. F. Graham, *M.C.*, M.B., B.S.Lond., for the Tibshelf District, Derbyshire.

POST-GRADUATE COURSES AND LECTURES.

POST-GRADUATE HOSTEL, Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, W.C.1.—Mon., 9 p.m., The Days of Richard Bright. Fri., 9 p.m., Amputation Stumps.

GLASGOW POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—At Royal Infirmary: Mon., Wed., and Fri., 9.15 a.m., Anaesthetics. At Western Infirmary: Tues. and Fri., 9 a.m., Diseases of the Throat and Nose. Tues. and Thurs., 5.30 p.m., and Wed. and Fri., 11 a.m., Venereal Diseases. At Royal Hospital for Sick Children: Daily (except Sat.), 9.15 to 11 a.m., Diseases of Children. At Glasgow Maternity and Women's Hospital: Daily (except Sat.), 3.30 to 5 p.m., Sat., 10 to 11.30 a.m., Clinical Obstetrics. At Glasgow Royal Maternity and Samaritan Hospital for Women: Mon., Wed., and Fri., 9.15 to 11 a.m., Clinical Gynaecology. At Ear, Nose, and Throat Hospital: Tues. and Thurs., 7.15 p.m., Diseases of the Ear, Nose, and Throat.

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1. If, as asserted in paragraph 80 of Document M. 25, 1918-19, "Report on the revision of the conditions of service, etc.," issued by the Insurance Acts Committee, May, 1919,

"the Committee is satisfied that there can be no question as to the validity of the present agreement; it has, in fact, been accepted as valid by courts of law. Nor does there seem to be any doubt that there should be some valid and binding agreement in the interests of the practitioner,"

why not apply to the law courts for an injunction to restrain the Minister from administering regulations contrary to statutory procedure and in contravention of the agreement? The test of experience has proven the asserted "validity" to be absolutely impotent to protect "the interests of the practitioner," and the arrogant and contemptuous attitude of the Minister towards the agreement has shown that the potential "validity" is not worth the scrap of paper on which the practitioner's subscribed-to memorandum of the undertaking is printed. To all intents and purposes that agreement might as well have never existed; and by this same token the vaunted "validity" goes by the board to the limbo of pretentious appellatives.

2. The rightness of this inferential deduction is fully confirmed by reference to the following evidence of the retrocession of "validity" from its omnipotent claim through a series of limitations, as progressively qualified in paragraph 102 of M. 25, under "Reference to courts of law":

"It is to be noted that, even under the Act, regulations, and agreement as they stand, it is possible for the decision of the Commissioners, as of any other body of persons occupying an analogous position, to be referred to the courts of law; and, in fact, there have been a number of cases in which such action has been taken. The scope of such possible litigation is, however, limited. It can be resorted to in any case where the question is one of interpretation or construction of the agreement; and, in other cases, when the question raised is whether any procedure laid down has been properly followed or whether the proceedings have been conducted in a judicial manner and spirit";

and, by implication, as further dissimulated in paragraph 40 (4) of the Memorandum of Evidence, under "Regulations and terms of service":

"that an appeal to the courts should be possible, not only on the ground of improper procedure, as at present, but also on the ground that the penalty inflicted was out of proportion to the offence"

down to the final admission that, by a process of emendation of those cases "where litigation can be resorted to," "the scope of such possible litigation" is now definitely limited to "any case where the question is one of interpretation or construction of the agreement"; and on no other ground, "under the Act, Regulations, and agreement," can "litigation be resorted to." (Q.E.D., as plain as plain can be.) To assert that "there can be no question as to the validity of the present agreement" when based on a "question of interpretation," etc. (the less important aspect of the claim), amounts to the promulgation of "a half truth," is grossly misleading, and demands an explanation to the practitioners whose confident security in its "validity" to protect their interests has been belied at the crucial moment.

3. While the interpretation of the *draft* of an agreement may be accepted in a court of law as valid, yet the actual terms and conditions of the contract may be devoid of some requirement for recognition in a law court as valid evidence of an agreement, and it is the lack of this statutory requirement in the present agreement which is responsible for the practitioners' legal disability.

Broadly speaking, the law on contracts for personal service is based on the principle of "moral equity" (that is, first subordinate degree of the Golden Rule). Mutuality of accord is the essence of agreement; and, in the eyes of the law, no penalty can be imposed, enforced, or exacted unless the liability in respect of the act or omission (which the law says shall be fair and reasonable having regard to the circumstances) shall be specified and stipulated for in the agreement itself, or exhibited in a schedule appended to the document, or in some other way or manner the intention of its incidence shall be brought to the cognizance of the acceptor.

With the exception of the extreme penalty for grave misdemeanours no such stipulations are embodied in the agreement, yet the Minister imposes monetary penalties upon practitioners for trivial infractions, which are deducted from his remuneration without the least compunction. In the catalogue of recorded convictions there are sufficient examples of fines having been exacted, with an extortionate demand and vindictive temper, as to justify the conclusion that, under the present arbitrary régime, the administration of the Regulations strongly savours of the tyranny of Bolshevic absolutism. And whether the agreement be valid or invalid is immaterial to the fact that the action of the Minister in this respect is amenable to the common law of the land, and this pernicious aspect of administration should be the opportunity of the Insurance Acts Committee to test the validity of the procedure in a court of law. It is a monstrous travesty of equity and justice that there should be one law for the practitioner and another for the humblest of His Majesty's subjects in the service of communal citizenship.

In the absence of mutuality no agreement exists, either in the legal or in the technical meaning of the term, which accounts for the discord in the administration, by leaving the practitioner helplessly exposed to the temperamental buffetings of a bureaucratic dictator, which is undoubtedly now beginning to exercise a baneful influence on the practitioner's morale.

From all of the foregoing it is obvious that little heed is given to the practitioner's perilous position. The problem of the practitioner's plight of to-day, set for solution, may be briefly propounded in this fashion: If the Insurance Acts Committee be unable to protect the practitioner from the "perils of the panel," and if the Council be powerless to prevent "restrictions on the liberties of the profession," through "collective bargaining," under the present agreement, what prospect can there be for the betterment of the practitioner's position in future, when not one of the recommendations in the report of the revised conditions of service contains any provision for, or reference to, this fundamental need—namely, "that there should be some valid and binding agreement in the interests of the practitioner"?

I feel strongly that the present revision is an opportune season for the general body of insurance practitioners to take a leading hand in the protection of their own interests, which they have been denied up to the present. This can and should be effected by a united demand and determined insistence upon the entitlement of the practitioner's undertaking to claim a similar measure of that equity of protection which the law affords to unindentured contracts for personal service, including identical rights of appeal to courts of civil law, in the form of a resolution at the conference, the terms of which I hope will be tabled at the meeting; and, if adopted, "if it did no good, it could do no harm."—I am, etc.,

Eastbourne, Sept. 10th. WM. MUIR-SMITH.

Naval and Military Appointments.

ROYAL NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICE.

Surgeon Rear-Admirals W. L. Martin, O.B.E., to the *Egmont*, and for R.N. Hospital, Malta, on joining; and R. St.G. S. Bond, C.B., to the *Vivid* for R.N. Hospital, Plymouth.

Surgeon Captains A. R. Thomas, O.B.E., to the *Vivid* for R.N. Hospital, Plymouth; and R. W. B. Hall, O.B.E., to the *President* for service in Medical Department, Admiralty, and as Deputy Medical Director-General.

Surgeon Commanders A. R. Fisher to the *President* for three months' post-graduate course; E. L. Atkinson, D.S.O., to the *Pembroke* for R.N. Barracks, Chatham, temporary supernumerary; F. G. H. R. Black to the *Vivid* for R.N. Barracks, Devonport, and for specialist duties; J. D. Bangay, O.B.E., to the *Victory* for R.N. Barracks, Portsmouth; E. MacEwan to the *Dolphin* as Senior Medical Officer, Submarines; C. T. Baxter to the *President* for Royal Victoria Yard, Deptford, for survey of stores; J. M. Hayes to the *Egmont*; A. J. Tozer to the *Ramillies*; J. P. Shorten, D.S.C., to the *Princess Margaret*, and as Ophthalmic Specialist temporarily; R. F. MacMahon to the *Pembroke* for R.M. Infirmary, Chatham; and F. Cock to the *Egmont* for R.N. Hospital, Malta, as Ophthalmic Specialist, on relief; H. B. Hill to the *Victory* for P.R.T. School and as special in P.R.T.

Surgeon Lieutenant Commander P. N. Button, O.B.E., to be Surgeon Commander.

Surgeon Lieutenant Commanders W. J. Colbourne, N. A. H Barlow, J. E. Clark, W. A. Jolliffe, N. B. de M. Greenstreet, A. W. Cocking, and J. S. Elliott to the *President*, for five months' course of instruction; R. W. Nesbitt to the *Victory* for R.M. Infirmary, Eastney; E. Heffernan to the *President* for Royal Victoria Yard, Deptford, for survey of stores; T. Gwynne-Jones to the *Sandhurst*; A. G. Taylor to the *Harebell*; H. L. Peregrine to the *Vivid* for R.N. Hospital, Plymouth, and as Ophthalmic Specialist; O. J. M. Kerrigan to the *Colossus*; S. R. Johnson to the *Ganges* for Shotley Sick Quarters; J. C. Kelly, D.S.C., to the *Pembroke* for R.M. Infirmary, Deal; and J. T. Wylie to the *Columbine* for R.N. Hospital, S. Queensferry.

Surgeon Lieutenant W. J. Flannery to the *Furious* on recommissioning.

Drs. A. S. Nicol and T. A. Cochrane have entered as Surgeon Lieutenants for short service and been appointed to the *Victory* for R.N. Hospital, Haslar, for course.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY.

Surgeon Commander A. S. Mackenzie to the *President* for five months' course of instruction.

ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE.

P. J. Cammiade entered as Probationary Sublieutenant and attached to the London Division.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

The following Captains to be Majors: J. Walker, M.C., S. Arnott, T. L. Fraser, O.B.E., R. A. Hepple, M.C., J. G. Ronaldson, M.C. (prov.), C. O. Shackleton, H. Walker, M.C., W. D. Arthur (prov.), H. D. F. Brand (prov.), H. G. Peake, Temporary Major F. G. A. Smyth, J. P. Little, K. P. Mackenzie (prov.), A. L. Robertson, O.B.E., D. C. Monro, F. C. Atkinson Fleming, M.C. (prov.), W. Foot, F. C. K. Austin, S. Smith, F. G. Flood, M.C. (prov.), J. Higgins, E. B. Marsh, M.C., C. Armstrong, M.B.E. (prov.), J. A. L. Wilson (prov.), J. H. Fletcher, D.S.O., M.C., D. G. Evans (prov.).

Captain E. N. P. Martland retires, receiving a gratuity.

Captain J. McP. MacKinnon is restored to the establishment.

The following Lieutenants (on probation) are confirmed in their rank: T. A. J. M. Dodd, J. M. Johnston, R. J. G. Hyde.

F. M. Collins and J. A. Chapel to be Lieutenants (on probation).

R. A. M. Humphrey and W. A. Kerr to be temporary Lieutenants.

members with their wives and friends will lunch together; tickets (exclusive of drinks) 3s. 6d. each. In the afternoon a sweepstake golf competition will be held on the course of the Spey Bay Club by the courtesy of the committee of the club. Those intending to be present at the luncheon are asked to let the secretary know the probable number of tickets required before September 23rd.

SOUTHERN BRANCH: WINCHESTER DIVISION.—The next meeting of the Winchester Division will be held at the War Memorial Hospital, Andover, on Wednesday, September 29th, at 3 p.m. Short references to the Annual Meeting at Nottingham will be made by the Divisional representative and the honorary secretary. Other matters for consideration are the adoption of a binding resolution regarding salaries of whole-time medical officers, and the question of hospital inspection. At the conclusion of the meeting the members will be entertained to tea by the hospital staff, and it has also been suggested that if time permits members shall afterwards adjourn to the golf links. It will be a great convenience, therefore, if those who intend to be present will kindly notify Dr. Edwards, Elvin House, Andover, or the honorary secretary, Dr. W. A. Bruce Young, Everthorpe, East Hill, Winchester.

SUFFOLK BRANCH: WEST SUFFOLK DIVISION.—A meeting of the West Suffolk Division will be held at the West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds, on Tuesday, September 28th, at 3 p.m. Sir Humphry Rolleston, Bt., Regius Professor of Physic, Cambridge, will read a paper on changes in the clinical aspects of diseases. An invitation to members of neighbouring Divisions has been sent to Division secretaries. It is hoped also that members of the Division will invite medical friends from the neighbourhood to attend. Tea will be provided.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH.—The annual meeting of the Yorkshire Branch (postponed owing to the strike) will be held on October 2nd at the Station Hotel, York, at 2.30 p.m. Dr. P. Macdonald will deliver his presidential address.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: WAKEFIELD, PONTEFRACT, AND CASTLEFORD DIVISION.—The following syllabus has been drawn up for the session 1926-27:

Oct. 7th. British Medical Association Lecture by Dr. R. M. Brontë (pathologist, Home Office): Some Notes on Forensic Pathology.
Nov. 18th. Dr. A. E. Pearson (medical officer, Leeds Fever Hospitals): Diagnosis of Infectious Diseases.
Dec. 16th. Mr. H Lee, F.R.C.S. (ophthalmic surgeon, Leeds General Infirmary): Acute Diseases of the Eye.
Jan. 13th. Mr. G. L. Wilkinson, M.R.C.S., L.D.S. (honorary clinical lecturer, Leeds University Dental School): Conservative Dentistry. Dental friends invited.
Feb. 10th. Dr. A. E. Barnes (senior honorary physician, Sheffield Royal Infirmary): Diet.
Mar. 10th. Dr. G. W. Watson (honorary physician, Leeds General Infirmary): The Early Signs of Phthisis.
April 14th. Dr. T. W. Griffith (consulting physician, Leeds General Infirmary): The Prevention of Heart Disease, and the Causes and Treatment of Irregular Heart Action.

All the lectures will be given at the Bull Restaurant, Westgate, Wakefield. Garage accommodation. Supper, at 7.45 o'clock (2s. 6d.), will precede the lectures.

Meetings of Branches and Divisions.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: WOOLWICH DIVISION.

A GENERAL meeting of the Woolwich Division was held at the Woolwich Tuberculosis Dispensary on September 6th under the chairmanship of Dr. DIVER.

It was decided to hold several clinical meetings during the forthcoming winter. In this connexion a letter was read from Colonel Hartigan, R.A.M.C., offering a room in the Herbert Hospital for a clinical meeting in November, also promising an address from an officer at Millbank and clinical cases from the hospital to be available. A resolution was adopted thanking Colonel Hartigan and accepting his offer. It was decided to circularize members, asking their opinion as to whether there should be an annual dinner or not, and, if so, whether it should be held in London or locally.

NORTH WALES BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the North Wales Branch was held at Bettws-y-coed, when a large number of members attended. Several new members were elected by the Council. At the Branch meeting Lieut.-Colonel R. H. Mills-Roberts, C.M.G., F.R.C.S., was elected president for 1926-27, and Major J. R. Williams, M.D. (Penmaenmawr), was elected president-elect for 1926-27. It was decided to hold the spring meeting at Pwllheli, and the annual meeting at Penmaenmawr. The arrangements for the autumn joint meeting with the local division of the National Veterinary Association was left in the hands of the joint secretaries.

Dr. H. E. JONES (Liverpool) read notes of a case of temporo-sphenoidal (brain) abscess following influenzal otitis media, and demonstrated a slit-lamp and living eye microscope and a hand electro-magnet for foreign bodies in the eye. Dr. NORMAN LEEMING (Colwyn Bay) read notes of (1) a case of large growth of abdominal wall simulating ovarian cyst, and (2) a case of volvulus involving the caecum. Dr. J. C. DAVIES (Wrexham) read a paper on blood pressure estimation in general practice. All the papers were well discussed by members present, and the contributors were heartily thanked for them.

Altogether a very successful summer meeting was held.

Correspondence.

Ophthalmic Benefit and Approved Societies.

SIR,—With reference to the Current Note in the SUPPLEMENT of September 11th (p. 143), it may interest your readers to hear that instead of the approved societies giving the patients the choice of specialist to consult about their eyes, some of them now send a form to the doctor asking why the patient must consult a specialist; this after the patient has sent the society a certificate stating that he must see an ophthalmic surgeon. One of these societies tells me that I must send the patients to its own ophthalmic men, although it will not state who they are. Another large society, which employs its own ophthalmic surgeon, refuses to allow my own patients to see me, and says they must go to him if they want Ophthalmic Benefit, otherwise they must pay the fee themselves. Some of the societies employ an optician of their own, and make the patients order their glasses from him instead of giving any choice in the matter. Other societies, again, are running their own clinic, so that one's patients are sent there instead of one having the benefit.

If a patient has a certificate saying he needs glasses, generally filled in by mistake on the optical letter of some societies, the society sends the patient, not to a doctor, but to a sight-testing optician. When the patient has a certificate from his doctor saying he must see an ophthalmic surgeon he should send this to his society, and ask for a letter to see an ophthalmic surgeon. The societies have lists of men doing this work—and practically everyone is doing it—and the patient should be allowed to choose whom he wishes to see, unless his own doctor sends him to any particular surgeon. Unfortunately, the insured person does not know of these advantages, or will not take the trouble to send in his certificates or insist upon having a letter from his society.

All the societies are not like this, as some of them have given Ophthalmic Benefit for some time before the present arrangement; but there is a tendency on the part of some of them to send the patients to their own man, or to a clinic, or if possible to a sight-testing optician, presumably on the score of cheapness.—I am, etc.,

SYDNEY TIBBLES,
Member of late Ophthalmic Benefit Committee.

London, W., Sept. 10th.

National Health Insurance: Disciplinary Procedure.

SIR,—Dr. Gordon Ward, in the course of a letter which appeared in the SUPPLEMENT of August 21st (p. 135), traversing an important aspect of the above-named subject, enunciates a proposition, the effect of which, in his opinion, should its terms be converted into a resolution at the Conference, "would be to make a sharp division between the judicial duties and the executive powers of the Ministry," and which, he is evidently hopeful, would provide a *via media* out of the present impasse in "collective bargaining," "which arises in consequence" of the reasons stated (Recommendation B) in the recent report of the Insurance Acts Committee (q.v., SUPPLEMENT, August 14th, p. 119).

In the realm of National Health Insurance the Minister of Health, being responsible solely to Parliament for the stewardship of a national trust, is constituted, by the Regulations, a sort of lord high commissioner and executioner-in-chief in supervising and directing the administrative affairs of medical benefit; and, in the exercise of his exalted prerogative, the Minister arrogates to his authority the right to function as a law unto himself, and to act as sole arbiter of his own judgement in disciplinary matters. This anomaly of constitutional law and order is the trouble and despair of the Insurance Acts Committee, and is "exactly what we are up against."

I fail to read into the construction of Section 91 (c) of the amended Act, 1924, any inference implying the contemplated possibility of effecting "a sharp division" etc., which Dr. Gordon Ward assumes to be inherent in the text. It could not be done. As at present connoted, "judicial duties" (or should it be quasi-judicial functions) and "executive powers" are both alike essentially *administrative*, while functioning through the same personnel of accepted responsibility. In any case, such division could not be effected without involving a radical alteration in the context of the Regulations, which (being the peculiar interest and special care of Parliament, what the Minister officially suggests to-day becomes the implemented act of to-morrow) are unassailable.

The remedy must be sought in some other direction than through the exhibition of a menacing resolution of uncertain polemics. Action—direct and practical—seems to be demanded to retrieve a "serious situation." That the failure of "collective bargaining" from the first to protect "the interests of the practitioner" is the *fons et origo* of the whole embroglio a brief reference to historical fact will plainly show.